

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DPW-01 FDRE-00

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O R 191142Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5599

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

USDEL JEC PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SAIGON 5326

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, VS

SUBJECT: "PRG" APRIL 19 PRESS CONFERENCE IN SAIGON

1. "PRG" SPOKESMAN AT REGULAR SATURDAY PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 19 DELIVERED BLESSEDLY SHORT PREPARED STATEMENT AND WENT QUICKLY TO QUESTIONS. STATEMENT WAS NOTEWORTHY ONLY IN THAT SPOKESMAN CAREFULLY AVOIDED MENTION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH ANY GVN, EVEN A GVN RECONSTITUTED AT IT HAS PREVIOUSLY DEMANDED, AS MEANS TO SETTLE WAR. INSTEAD, SPOKESMAN CALLED AS USUAL FOR U.S. RESPONSE TO " THE TWO DEMANDS" OF THE MARCH 21 "PRG" STATEMENT (WHICH REPEATS OCTOBER 8, 1974, PRECONDITIONS TO NEGOTIATION) AND DECLARED, "ONLY IN THIS WAY CAN CONDITIONS BE CREATED FOR A RAPID SETTLEMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM'S QUESTION."

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2. LIGHTLY EDITED RESPONSES TO WESTERN JOURNALISTS' QUESTIONS
FOLLOWS:

3. ASKED WHETHER THE "PRG" WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH THE
EVACUATION OF ALL BUT 1000 AMERICANS FROM SVN: "I DON'T
KNOW IF YOU REFER TO 1000 AMERICAN CIVILIANS OR 1000 AMERICAN
ADVISERS. THERE IS NO QUESTION AS TO THE STAY OF 1000 AMERICAN
CIVILIANS. BUT THERE IS A FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT
IF ONE AMERICAN ADVISER STAYS."

4. ASKED AS A FOLLOW-UP WHETHER AMBASSADOR MARTIN IS REGARDED
AS AN AMERICAN ADVISER: "I THINK THAT EVERY AMERICAN CAN
ASSESS THE ROLE THAT MARTIN HAS BEEN PLAYING IN SVN. HE IS
CLOAKED AS AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT IN SVN, BUT HE IS THE COM-
MANDER OF ALL MILITARY, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC QUESTIONS
AND OF ALL CRIMINAL ACTS IN SVN. THE PRG, I THINK, WILL ADOPT
POLICIES APPROPRIATE TO PERSONALITIES, TO DIFFERENT
INDIVIDUALS, THOUGH THEY ARE VARIOUS."

5. ASKED WHETHER AMERICANS AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE COULD BE
GUARANTEED SAFE DEPARTURE FROM SAIGON: "IF THE FORD ADMINIS-
TRATION REALLY WANTS TO BRING ITS PEOPLE OUT OF SVN, LET
THE FORD ADMINISTRATION GO AHEAD, AND IT WILL NOT MEET
WITH ANY OBSTRUCTION FROM THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE OR FROM
THE PLAF. BUT IF, ON THE CONTRARY, THE FORD ADMINISTRATION
WANTS TO PROLONG THE ILLEGAL PRESENCE OF US ADVISERS IN SVN,
IT IS ALSO UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE
CANNOT GO ON TO SIT AND WAIT FOR THEM. WITH REGARD TO AMERICAN
NATIONALS IN SVN, THE POLICY OF THE PRG IS ALSO CLEAR, THAT
IS TO PROTECT THE LIVES AND PROPERTY OF THOSE FOREIGN RESIDENTS
PROVIDED THAT THEY RESPECT THE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVERIGNTY
OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. AND AS TO THE SECOND QUESTION,
LET THE FORD ADMINISTRATION LET THE SVN PEOPLE SETTLE THEIR
OWN AFFAIRS. IT IS ALSO NECESSARY TO ADD HERE THAT THE FORD
ADMINISTRATION'S DISTORTION AND DECEITFUL ALLEGATION ABOUT
THE SO-CALLED TERRORIZA-
TION OR SLAUGHTER FROM THE PRG AGAINST THOSE WHO HAVE
COLLABORATED WITH THE ADVERSARY ARE ONLY CHEAP ALLEGATIONS,
CANNOT DECEIVE ANYBODY, AND ARE BEING EXPOSED.

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6. ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF PRESIDENT THIEU WERE TO STAY IN
SAIGON AFTER ITS "LIBERATION": "THE PRG ARE CALLING ON THE
PEOPLE AND ARMY OF SVN TO OVERTHROW THE THIEU TRAITOROUS
CLIQUE. ALL ACTS TAKEN BY THE THIEU ADMINISTRATION AGAINST
THE PARIS AGREEMENT, AGAINST THE FUNDAMENTAL NATIONAL RIGHTS
OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, ARE TO BE PUNISHED. WITH REGARD
TO MR. THIEU HIMSELF, AFTER THE PEOPLE OF SVN HAVE COMPLETED
THEIR CAUSE OF LIBERATION AND WERE MR. THIEU FORTUNATELY

STILL ALIVE, HOW WOULD THE PRG TREAT HIM? THE (ANSWER)
HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE KNOWN BY THE PRG."

7. ASKED TO COMMENT ON REFUGEE REPORTS THAT "PRG" PROPAGANDISTS HAD BEEN PREDICTING THE "LIBERATION" OF SAIGON WITHIN A FEW WEEKS: "I REGRET THAT I CANNOT SAY AND I CANNOT KNOW IN ADVANCE THE DATE THAT THE PEOPLE AND REVOLUTIONARY FORCES WILL RISE UP IN THEIR FIGHT IN SAIGON BECAUSE THAT COMPLETELY DEPENDS ON THEIR ASSESSMENT OF THE CHANCE WHICH THEY CONSIDER BEST.

8. ASKED IF THE "PRG" WOULD AVOID ATTACKING PARTICULAR AREAS OF SAIGON: "IT IS MY OPINION THAT IF THE PEOPLE IN SAIGON LAUNCH THEIR UPRISING AND OFFENSIVE, AS WAS APPEALED FOR BY THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE OF THE SAIGON-GIA DINH AREA, IT IS NATURAL THAT THEY WILL TAKE MEASURES TO MAINTAIN AND INSURE ORDER AND SECURITY TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL."

9. ASKED ABOUT THE RELEASE OF AMERICANS AND ONE AUSTRALIAN CAPTURED AT BAN ME THUOT, IN VIEW OF THE RECENT RELEASE OF TWO ICCS MEMBERS: "BECAUSE I AM NOT AWARE OF CONCRETE FACTORS, I REGRET THAT I CANNOT ANSWER YOU IN A CONCRETE WAY."

10. ASKED FOR COMMENT ON REPORTS OF EXECUTIONS IN "LIBERATED" AREAS: "THE PRG PROCLAIMED IN ITS 10-POINT POLICY OF APRIL 1 THAT IT WILL TREAT HUMANELY, GENEROUSLY AND LENIENTLY ALL PEOPLE WHO HAVE COLLABORATED WITH THE ADVERSARY, PROVIDED THAT AFTER THE PEOPLE HAVE SEIZED CONTROL, THOSE PEOPLE WILL STOP SERVING THE INTERESTS OF US IMPERIALISM AND THE THIEU ADMINISTRATION. IT IS ALSO VERY CLEAR IN THE 10-POINT POLICY THAT THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO SABOTAGE AND OPPOSE THE REVOLUTION
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WILL BE SEVERELY PUNISHED. BUT AS A MATTER OF FACT THERE HAS NOT BEEN SUCH A THING SO FAR, BECAUSE THE EX-FUNCTIONARIES AS WELL AS EX-SERVICEMEN OF THE SAIGON PUPPET ADMINISTRATION HAVE VOLUNTARILY APPLIED THE LAWS OF THE LIBERATED AREAS AND THE MAJORITY OF THEM HAVE JOINED THE PEOPLE IN BUILDING UP THE LIBERATED AREAS AND CONSOLIDATING INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY. THE U.S. AND THIEU ARE STILL CONTINUING TO DISTORT THIS POLICY OF THE PRG."

11. ASKED ABOUT SOME 65 FRENCHMEN WHO VOLUNTARILY STAYED IN DANANG: "I THINK THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS ITS OWN ASSESSMENT IN INSTRUCTING THE FRENCHMEN TO STAY BACK."

12. ASKED WHEN THE "PRG" WOULD CEASE TO BE "PROVISIONAL":
"THE PRG WILL END ITS HISTORIC ROLE AS SOON AS THE SOUTH

VIETNAMESE PEOPLE HAVE CARRIED OUT A TRULY DEMOCRATIC AND
FREE GENERAL ELECTION WITHOUT FOREIGN INTERFERENCE."
MARTIN

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